CLAIMS:

The following is a listing of all claims in the application with their status and the text of all active claims.

1. – 30. (CANCELLED)

    31. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A remote control system for controlling a plurality of secure containers, each having a controllable lock mechanism, the system comprising:

        a. Means for inputting a command to enable or disable the particular container lock mechanism;

        b. A control computer for assembling an instruction operative to enable or disable the particular container lock mechanism in response to the command, the instruction comprising an identifier specific to the particular container lock mechanism;

        c. Transmitting means, operatively connected to the control computer, for conditioning the instruction for wireless transmission and wirelessly transmitting the conditioned instructions to the container lock mechanisms; and

        d. Each container comprising container lock mechanism control means for receiving the transmitted instruction and for enabling or disabling the lock mechanism of that container if the instruction contains the identifier specific to that container, whereby control of locking mechanisms on containers can be temporarily given to individuals, and the time of use of the containers can be monitored remotely.

32. (ORIGINAL) The control system as set forth in claim 31 wherein the transmitting means comprises a radio transmitter for modulating the conditioned instruction onto a radio signal and for transmitting the modulated radio signal to the containers from an antenna.

33. (ORIGINAL) The control system as set forth in claim 32 wherein the frequency of the radio signal is in the range of 450 Megahertz to 470 Megahertz.

34. (ORIGINAL) The control system as set forth in claim 33 wherein the output power of the

radio signal radiated from the antenna is in the range of 5 to 30 watts.

35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The control system as set forth in claim 31 wherein the container control means of each container comprises: a) a wireless receiver operative for receiving the wirelessly transmitted instruction; and b) means for interpreting the instruction as a command to enable or disable the container lock mechanism.

36. (ORIGINAL) The control system as set forth in claim 35 wherein the wireless receiver is a radio receiver operative to receive radio signals in the frequency range of 450 Megahertz to 470 Megahertz.

37. (ORIGINAL) The control system as set forth in claim 35 wherein the means for interpreting a received instruction comprises a receiver controller, operatively connected to the wireless receiver, for reading the command contained in the instruction and for enabling or disabling the lock mechanism of the container if the instruction contains the identifier specific to that container.

38. (ORIGINAL) The control system as set forth in claim 35 wherein each container control means is powered by a battery.

39. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A remote control system for controlling a plurality of safes, each having a controllable lock mechanism, the system comprising:
a) means for inputting a command to enable or disable a particular safe locking mechanism;
b) a control computer for assembling an instruction operative to enable or disable the particular safe locking mechanism in response to the command, the instruction comprising an identifier specific to the particular safe;
c) transmitting means, operatively connected to the control computer, for conditioning the instruction for wireless transmission and wirelessly transmitting the conditioned instruction to the safes; and

d) each safe comprising safe control means for receiving the transmitted instruction and for enabling or disabling the lock mechanism of that safe if the instruction contains the identifier specific to that safe,

whereby control of locking mechanisms on containers can be temporarily given to individuals, and the time of use of the containers can be monitored remotely.

40. (ORIGINAL) The control system as set forth in claim 39 wherein the safes are hotel in-room safes distributed in the rooms of a hotel.

41. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The control system as set forth in claim 40 wherein the means for inputting a command to enable or disable a particular safe lock mechanism comprises:

a) a hotel property management system;

b) a first communications link operatively connecting the control computer to the property management system; and

c) means for interpreting a request entered into the property management system as a command to the control computer to enable or disable the particular safe lock mechanism.

42. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The control system as set forth in claim 40 wherein the means for inputting a command to enable or disable a particular safe lock mechanism comprises:

a) a telephone in a hotel room operatively connected to the hotel telephone system, the hotel room comprising the particular safe;

b) a first communications link operatively connecting the telephone system to the hotel property management system;

c) a second communications link operatively connecting the control computer to the hotel telephone system

d) a third communications link operatively connecting the property management system to the control computer; and

e) means for interpreting a telephone call made from the hotel room to a predetermined

telephone number as a command to enable or disable the particular safe lock mechanism.

43. (ORIGINAL) The control system as set forth in claim 39 wherein the transmitting means comprises a radio transmitter for modulating the conditioned instruction onto a radio signal and for transmitting the modulated radio signal to the safes from an antenna.

44. (ORIGINAL) The control system as set forth in claim 43 wherein the frequency of the radio signal is in the range of 450 Megahertz to 470 Megahertz.

45. (ORIGINAL) The control system as set forth in claim 44 wherein the output power of the radio signal radiated from the antenna is in the range of 5 to 30 watts.

46. (ORIGINAL) The control system as set forth in claim 39 wherein the safe control means of each safe comprises:
  a) a wireless receiver operative for receiving the wirelessly transmitted instruction; and
  b) means for interpreting the instruction as a command to enable or disable the container.

47. (ORIGINAL) The control system as set forth in claim 46 wherein the wireless receiver is a radio receiver operative to receive radio signals in the frequency range of 450 Megahertz to 470 Megahertz.

48. (ORIGINAL) The control system as set forth in claim 46 wherein the means for interpreting a received instruction comprises a receiver controller, operatively connected to the wireless receiver, for reading the command contained in the instruction and for enabling or disabling the lock mechanism of the safe if the instruction contains the identifier specific to that safe.

49. (ORIGINAL) The control system as set forth in claim 46 wherein each safe control means is powered by a battery.

50. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling a plurality of secure containers, each having a controllable lock mechanism, the method comprising the steps of:

a) inputting a command to enable or disable a particular container lock mechanism;

b) assembling an instruction to enable or disable the particular container lock mechanism in response to the command, the instruction comprising an identifier specific to the specific container;

c) conditioning the instruction for wireless transmission and wirelessly transmitting the conditioned instruction to the containers; and

d) receiving the transmitted instruction and enabling or disabling the lock mechanism of the particular container if the instruction contains the identifier specific to that container,

whereby control of locking mechanisms on containers can be temporarily given to individuals, and the time of use of the containers can be monitored remotely.

51. (ORIGINAL) The method as set forth in claim 50 wherein the secure containers are hotel in-room safes distributed in the rooms of a hotel.

52. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 51 wherein inputting a command to enable or disable a particular safe lock mechanism comprises the steps of:

a) entering a request to enable or disable a particular safe lock mechanism into the hotel property management system; and

b) interpreting the entered request as a command to enable or disable the particular safe lock mechanism.

53. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 52 wherein inputting a command to enable or disable a particular safe lock mechanism comprises the steps of:

a) dialing a predetermined telephone number from the telephone in the hotel room containing the particular safe; and

b) interpreting the telephone call to the predetermined telephone number as a command to enable or disable the particular safe lock mechanism.

54. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 52 wherein assembling the instruction to enable or disable the particular safe lock mechanism comprises the steps of:

    a) receiving the command to enable or disable the particular safe lock mechanism;

    b) receiving the room number of the hotel room containing the particular safe;

    c) deriving the identifier of the particular safe from the received room number; and

    d) combining the identifier and the command into the instruction.

55. (ORIGINAL) The method as set forth in claim 52 wherein transmitting the instruction to the safes comprises the steps of:

    a) conditioning the instruction for modulating a radio signal having a frequency in the range of 450 Megahertz to 470 Megahertz; and

    b) transmitting the modulated radio signal to the safes from an antenna, the transmitted radio signal having an output power in the range of 5 to 30 watts.

56. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 55 wherein enabling or disabling the particular safe lock mechanism comprises the steps of:

    a) receiving the transmitted radio signal;

    b) demodulating the instruction from the radio signal;

    c) reading the command contained in the instruction; and

    d) enabling or disabling the lock mechanism of the particular safe if the instruction contains the identifier specific to that safe.